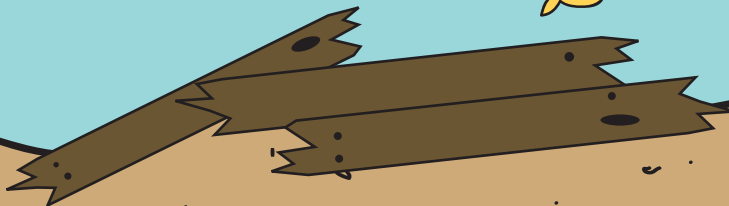


Long Ago in this Land



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Long ago in this land:

Crafting a bear claw necklace

Captain's Notes



Overview

In this activity, students will make a bear claw necklace similar to those worn by the Michigan Potawatomi Indians during their annual spring celebration.

Difficulty/Grade Level

Easy-Moderate/Grades 2-6

Suggested Group Size

In this activity, students work individually.

Time

30 min.-1 hour, including an introduction to the Potawatomi Indians.

Objectives

Explore and appreciate Michigan's Great Lakes history concerning all Native Peoples, with a specific concentration on the Potawatomi Indians.

Skills and Strategies

- Using braiding instructions to create the necklace
- Using coloring, cutting and laminating skills to complete the bear claw
- Time management

Materials

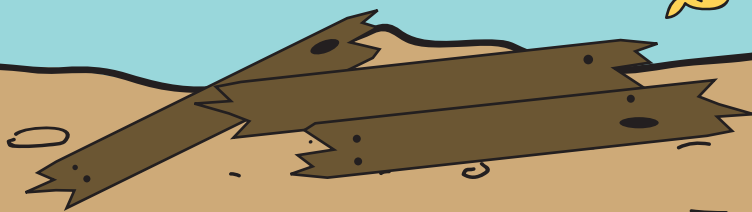
- Bear claw printouts (1 per student)
- 3 different colored yarns (1 string of each per student)
- Braiding instructions
- Metal necklace clasps
- Laminated paper (1/2 8x11 sheet per student)
- Hole puncher (1 or 2 per group)
- Duct tape (1 small piece per student)
- Crayons, markers, or map pencils
- Scissors
- PowerPoint presentation on Potawatomi Indians (included and optional)

Preparation

1. Assemble bear claw printouts, duct tape, laminated paper, hole punchers and clasps, crayons, markers and/or map pencils.
2. Cut yarn into 24 inch strings. Each student will receive 3 different colored yarn strings. Be sure to cut enough for the entire group with each new yarn color.
3. Cut duct tape into 2 inch pieces.

Procedures

1. Play introductory PowerPoint presentation for students, or have them individually read the introduction provided on the Potawatomi Indians of the Great Lakes.
2. Distribute supplies per student: 1 piece of duct tape, 1 bear claw printout, 1 sheet of braiding instructions, and 3 different colored yarn strings.



3. Keep hole punchers, scissors, laminate paper and metal clasps at the teacher's station.
4. Have students begin by knotting yarn strings and taping it to the table. Along with instructions, students should start their braid.
5. Once the braid is complete, have students return to the teacher's station. The teacher will help students attach the clasp. Once attached, have students return with their necklace to their tables.
6. Have students color and decorate their bear claw.
7. At teacher's station, help students laminate and cut completed bear claw. Punch a hole at the top of laminated bear claw. Allow students to return to tables to string bear claw onto the necklace. If needed, help students clasp bear claw necklace.

Discussion

- Which historical fact about the Potawatomi did you find the most interesting?

The Potawatomi traveled in birch bark canoes more often than on horseback. The Potawatomi used salt instead of sugar to flavor their food. Instead of headdresses, the Potawatomi men wore animal fur turbans.

- What were some of the ways the Potawatomi Indians kept warm in the winter?

In the colder months, buffalo skins and furs kept the Potawatomi warm.

- When would the bear claw traditionally be worn by the Potawatomi Indians?

Bear claw necklaces were worn by the Potawatomi during special occasions, such as the annual spring celebration.

Reeling It In

Review any additional intriguing facts about the Potawatomi not covered in the discussion. Remind students of the importance of exploring Great Lakes histories and peoples.

By knowing the past of our "Inland Seas", we can better understand the present. Only by understanding the past can we work to create the best future possible for all peoples.

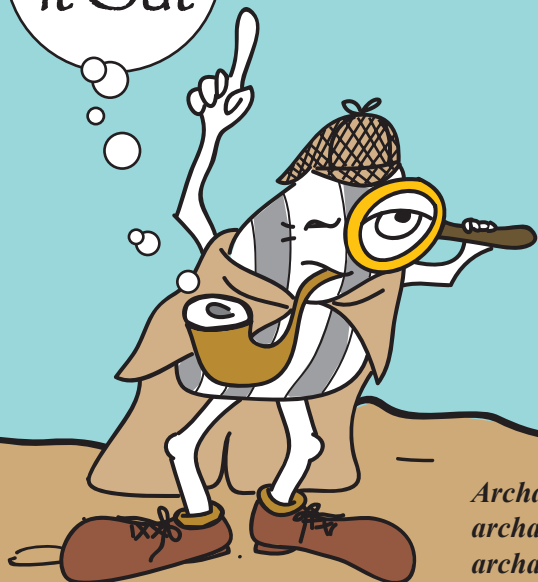
Further Information

- Visit thunderbay.noaa.gov and the Alpena County Library for information about the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay and further educational materials.
- Visit potawatomi.org for a more detailed and updated description of the Potawatomi Indians.

For more on the Potawatomi...

Visit potawatomi.org to explore the federally recognized bands of Potawatomi living around the Great Lakes region

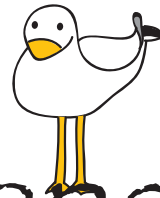
Figure It Out



What type of archaeologists study the artifacts of the land, rather than the water?

Archaeologists that study the land are called terrestrial archaeologists, while archaeologists that study underwater are called marine or maritime archaeologists. Can you discover the difference between marine and maritime archaeologists?

Long Ago in this Land



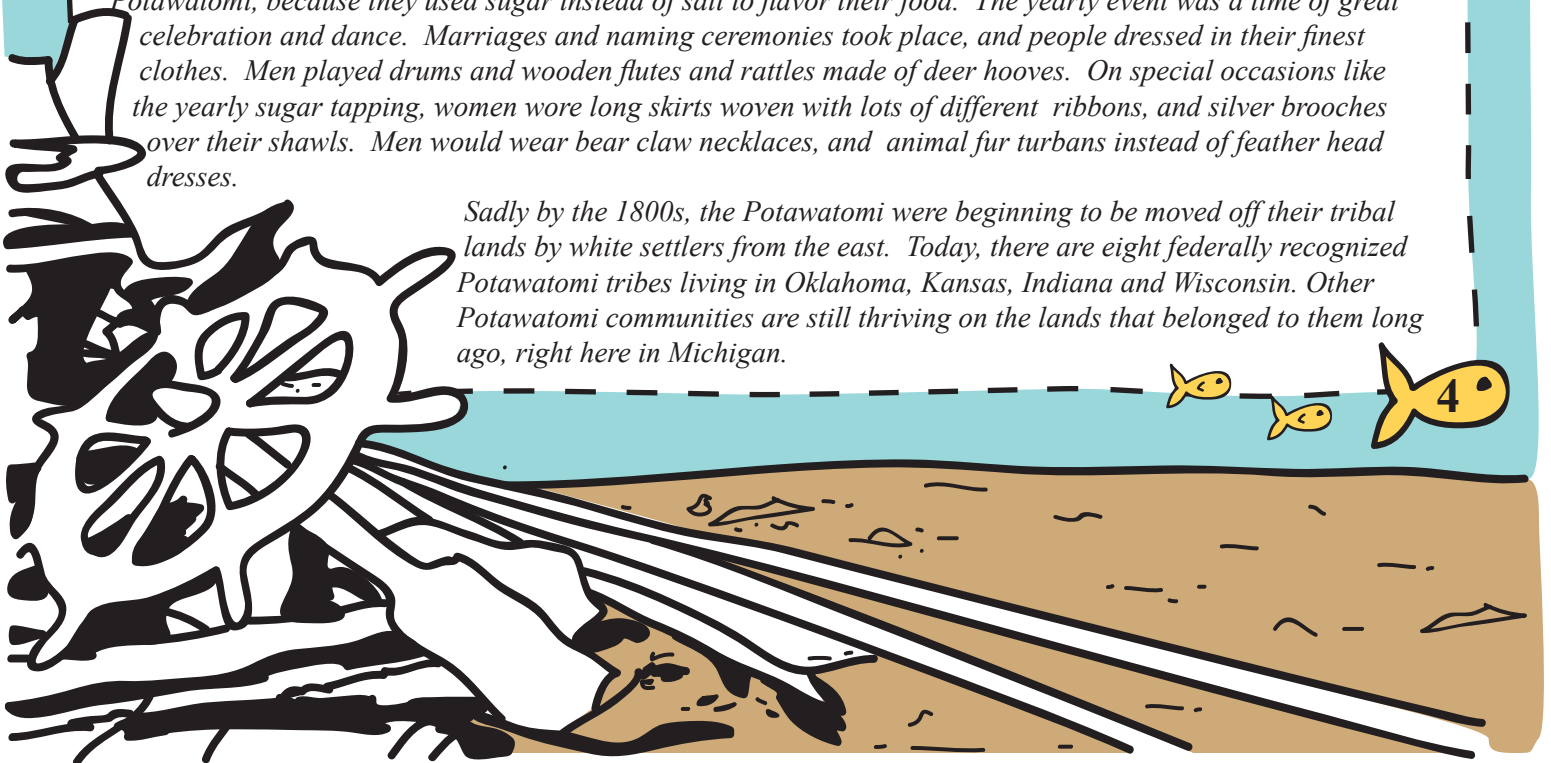
Archaeologists seek to understand past cultures by analyzing the material remains, such as sites and artifacts left behind by human activities. Over 110 bands of Native Peoples have lived around the Great Lakes throughout history. Their collective record begins thousands of years before European settlement, and includes tribes such as the Fox, Huron, Iroquois, and Potawatomi Indians.

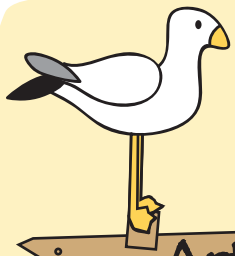
The Potawatomi were once part of larger group that traveled down North America's eastern shore along the Atlantic Ocean. Historical records confirm that the Potawatomi—or Nishnabec, as they call themselves—lived in Michigan over 500 years ago. Rather than travel on land by horseback, the Potawatomi traveled from place to place in birch bark or dugout canoes. The canoes could be made small enough to fit one family, or large enough to fit many warriors. The Great Lakes and its tributaries provided the people with abundant fish, but the Potawatomi were also excellent farmers. They grew wild rice and corn, pumpkins, beans, squash and onions. They hunted waterfowl near the shores of the Great Lakes and the bear, buffalo and deer of forests close-by.

The Potawatomi used the furs, feathers, and skins of the animals they hunted for many different purposes. Often the leftover hunted goods were made into clothing. Deerskin could be made into shirts, leggings and moccasins for the men, and loose dresses for the women. In the winter, buffalo fur clothing was decorated with porcupine quills and colorful glass beads.

The Potawatomi lived in birch bark wigwams with cedar mats for floors. The cedar mats gave the wigwams a fresh scent, and were easily moved from place to place. When spring arrived, all the smaller villages of Potawatomi people came together to tap the Maple trees for sugar. Sugar was a very important ingredient to the Potawatomi, because they used sugar instead of salt to flavor their food. The yearly event was a time of great celebration and dance. Marriages and naming ceremonies took place, and people dressed in their finest clothes. Men played drums and wooden flutes and rattles made of deer hooves. On special occasions like the yearly sugar tapping, women wore long skirts woven with lots of different ribbons, and silver brooches over their shawls. Men would wear bear claw necklaces, and animal fur turbans instead of feather head dresses.

Sadly by the 1800s, the Potawatomi were beginning to be moved off their tribal lands by white settlers from the east. Today, there are eight federally recognized Potawatomi tribes living in Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana and Wisconsin. Other Potawatomi communities are still thriving on the lands that belonged to them long ago, right here in Michigan.





Arti-FACTS

Activity

In this activity, you will make a bear claw necklace similar to those worn by the Michigan Potawatomi Indians during their annual spring celebration.

Materials

- Bear claw printout
- 3 different colored yarns (1 string of each)
- Braiding instructions
- Metal necklace clasps
- Laminate paper
- Hole puncher
- Duct tape
- Crayons, markers, or map pencils
- Scissors

Crew Commands

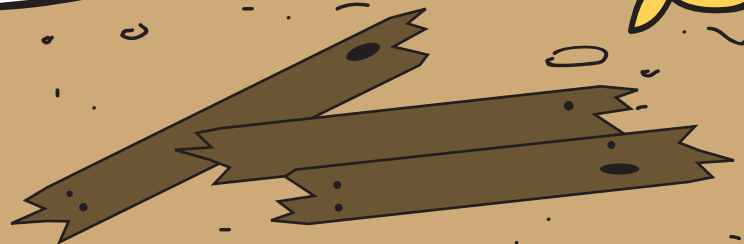
1. Watch the PowerPoint presentation, or individually read the introduction provided above on the Potawatomi Indians of the Great Lakes.
2. Begin by knotting yarn strings together and taping it to the table. Read the braiding instructions, and start your braid.
3. Once the braid is complete, see your teacher about a clasp. Once the clasp is attached, return with your necklace to their tables.
4. Color and decorate your bear claw.
5. See your teacher for laminating paper. Laminate your bear claw, then cut your completed bear claw. Punch a hole at the top of your laminated bear claw. String bear claw onto the braided necklace. Clasp your necklace and enjoy!

Further Information

- Visit thunderbay.noaa.gov and the Alpena County Library for information about the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay and further educational materials.
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Braiding Instructions

1. *Tie the three strings together with a knot at one end.*
2. *With a piece of duct tape, tape the knot to your table.*
3. *Separate each string so that there is one string in the center, one on the right, and one on the left.*
4. *Bring the right string over the center strand. Next, bring the left string over the right string. The center string will move to the right side.*
5. *Braid the strands until there is an inch of the strands left.*
6. *Tie a knot at the end of the braid.*
7. *Untape the braided necklace and see your teacher about a clasp.*

Great Lakes Challenge:

What other groups of Native Peoples inhabited Michigan?